INTRODUCTION

Taking a few moments prior to beginning a task to perform a JHA may save lives. While each hazard analysis may vary in the time commitment, the payoff is invaluable. It is important for crew to be aware of what components of a job present a hazard and why. Training should address how to identify the hazards, and how to implement appropriate safeguards. Support of the JHA process in turn will increase the general safety culture on board, as it encourages all to think safety first.

Each member of the crew should be able to adequately decide which work scenarios require a hazard analysis and managerial and supervisory staff should support and encourage these activities. When it comes to safety ignorance is not bliss, and therefore not considering what the hazards are may put you in danger. Still, it is often easier, and faster, to skip the JHA and get straight to work.

The most commonly reported reasons for not performing a JHA are:
• Hurrying to begin the job/get the job done
• Lack of hazard awareness
• Failure to communicate
• New and untrained
• Unaware of the necessity
• Negligent

Rushing to complete a task, inadequate consideration of the task at hand, poor communication about tasks and procedures, inadequate training, or pure negligence are not good excuses for overlooking safety. Performing JHA’s as routine practices must be encouraged for all. New staff needs training in the proper techniques, and safety lessons can be taught during training at all stages of a crew member’s career.

Each time, before a task is undertaken, consider the hazards, and consider how the task may be made safer before you begin.